

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action, claims 12 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent 7,024,677 (hereinafter Snyder). As discussed in detail on pages 2 and 3 of the Final Office Action, this rejection relies on Column 20, lines 15 to 30 as allegedly disclosing several features defined in the independent claim 12.

In particular, the Final Office Action alleges that routing elements as recited in claim 12 have been disclosed at Column 20, lines 15 to 30 and Column 9, lines 3 to 6 of Snyder. With reference first to Column 9, lines 3 to 6, this portion of Snyder discloses only lines that represent logical communication paths between a processing unit and video production devices. A video routing switcher that routes key signals and key inputs to a downstream keyer is not disclosed at Column 9, but rather at Column 20, lines 15 to 30 of Snyder.

It is noted that this portion of Snyder, specifically Column 20, lines 15 to 30, is also relied upon as allegedly disclosing the features recited in the final clause of claim 12, “wherein the digital video effects processor has a dedicated connection from the keyers, the mixers, the effects devices, and the routing elements to the processing elements of the digital video effects processor.”

The Final Office Action also refers to Column 20, lines 15 to 44, which includes the above portion of Snyder, in connection with the feature “one or more keyers”, recited in claim 1, and in the rejection of claims 20 and 21.

Regarding claims 15 to 18, page 3 of the Final Office Action refers to Column 20, lines 15 to Column 21, line 3 of Snyder. This passage similarly includes Column 20, lines 15 to 30.

Thus, it is readily apparent that the rejection of independent claim 12, and accordingly the rejection of the dependent claims 13 to 22 which depend therefrom, relies quite heavily on the paragraph in Snyder at Column 20, lines 15 to 30. The rejections of some of the dependent claims also reference this paragraph.

However, Applicants note that the present application has an effective date of January 28, 1999, which is the filing date of United States provisional patent application Serial No. 60/117,676, of which the present application claims benefit. This effective date is prior to the effective date of Snyder.

Snyder is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/488,578, filed on January 21, 2000,

which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/482,683, filed on January 14, 2000, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/215,161 filed on December 18, 1998. Only the first application, which is application No. 09/215,161, has an earlier filing date than the effective date of the present application.

However, application No. 09/215,161 does not support the subject matter used in the Final Office Action to reject the claims. The paragraph at Column 20, lines 15 to 30 of Snyder does not appear in United States Patent 6,452,612, which is the first publication of application No. 09/215,161.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the effective date of the subject matter used to reject the claims is after the effective date of the present application, and therefore the rejection of independent claim 12 and its dependent claims should be withdrawn.

The remaining portions of Snyder that were referenced in the Final Office Action do not disclose at least the above-noted features of independent claim 12, and therefore claim 12 is not anticipated by Snyder. The remaining claims 13 to 22 all depend from independent claim 12, and are not anticipated by Snyder for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 to 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) are respectfully requested.

Since no other issues were raised in the Final Office Action, early and favourable consideration of the application would appear to be in order.

Respectfully submitted,

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